

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2003
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on July 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles, CA.

Members Present: Joseph E. Petrillo, Chairperson
 Jerry Epstein, Vice Chairperson
 Fran Florez, Vice Chairperson
 Rod Diridon, Sr.
 T.J. Stapleton
 Leland Wong

Members Absent: Dr. Ernest A. Bates
 Bob Giroux

Approval of Minutes for June 24, 2003 Meeting

Chairperson Petrillo presented the minutes for approval. Vice Chairperson Florez moved to approve the June 24, 2003 meeting minutes. Vice Chairperson Epstein seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairperson Petrillo presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Diridon moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation. Member Wong seconded the motion, which carried, 6-0.

Members Reports

Chairperson Petrillo reported on the High Speed Ground Transportation Association (HSGTA) Annual Conference held May 12-15, 2003 in Orange, CA. The HSGTA Board will expand its Policy Board to add four additional members. Chairperson Petrillo reported on the Los Angeles Town Hall Group & Common Wealth Club "High-Speed Rail Symposium" held in San Francisco and Los Angeles on July 17 and July 18. Both events experienced good attendance and were successful in providing information pertaining to the proposed high-speed rail project to the public. Chairperson Petrillo reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Spanish Government and the Authority was signed in the Governor's office on July 9, 2003.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed announced Donna Andrews, former Authority Member and High-Speed Rail Commissioner as being present in the audience.

Executive Director Morshed reported on the state budget. Being that the budget has not been signed as of today, there may be a delay in the release of the draft EIR/EIS document.

Executive Director Morshed reported that the next Authority Board Meeting will be in September and he expects that the draft EIR/EIS report will be available at that time.

Executive Director Morshed reported that as a result of the MOU between the Spanish Government and the Authority to share information, a trip to Spain is being considered September 24, 2003 -

October 3, 2003 for Board Members and Legislators. The trip will not be funded by the State and travelers will have to personally finance their trip.

Executive Director Morshed reported that the Public Policy Institute of California recently published a poll pertaining to air quality in which sixty-five percent of residents indicated they would vote yes on the Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act slated for the ballot in November 2004.

Executive Director Morshed reported that the Public Outreach Request for Proposal (RFP) has been released. Executive Director Morshed explained the interview process and stated that as a practice, the Authority assigns two Members to the interview panel as observers. Therefore, if the Board wishes to continue this practice, Chairperson Petrillo should assign two Members to the interview panel. Chairperson stated that immediately following the Board Meeting he will assign Members to the interview panel.

Summary of Selected Topics from Draft Technical Studies

Executive Director Morshed stated the studies conducted by the Authority would be summarized into the draft EIR document. Kip Field, Project Manager of Parsons Brinckerhoff presented a summary of the preliminary results from the draft environmental technical studies on Transportation, Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, Energy, Local Area Land Use, Farmland and Agriculture, Hazardous Materials/Wastes, Biological Resources/Wetlands, Wetlands, and EMI/EMF.

Public Comment

John Bacon

Mr. Bacon expressed his concern that high-speed rail express-loops around population centers through Bakersfield and Fresno would be too costly due to noise mitigation requirements.

Review and Approval of Implementation Plan Request for Proposal (RFP)

Staff presented the RFP for an Implementation Plan contract to the Board for approval. Member Wong moved to approve the RFP for an Implementation Plan contract as a working draft, delegating authority to the Executive Director to make changes prior to release. Member Diridon seconded the motion, which carried, 6-0.

Identification of Date and Location of Next Meeting

The date and location of the next Authority Board meeting is September 23, 2003 in San Francisco.

Public Comment

Harvey Hall, Mayor of Bakersfield

Mayor Hall reported that a consensus has been reached in Bakersfield on a preferred location for a proposed high-speed rail station. During the month of July, the Kern Council of Governments (COG), Board of Supervisors approved and recommend the proposed Truxton Avenue station location. The Bakersfield City Council by resolution passed endorsement for the proposed Truxton Avenue station location and the consultant hired by Kern COG Consultant also recommended the proposed Truxton Avenue station location. Mayor Hall also expressed support for a high-speed rail maintenance station to be located in Bakersfield.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.